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FROM FRANK GEHRY TO ... THIS? Here's the new, toned-down design for the Atlantic Yards arena by Bruce Ratner's new architecture firm, Ellerbe Becket.

GEHRY IS GONE

Starchitect out, arena scaled back

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Chronic financial problems at Atlantic Yards have caused another casualty on the embattled project — Frank Gehry's ambitious design for both the arena and the rest of the 16-building project has been scrapped for a cheaper and widely criticized blueprint.

Last Thursday's announcement by developer Bruce Ratner that one of the project's main selling points had been eliminated was not a surprise, given that reports have been circulating since December that Gehry's role in designing the Barclays Center arena had been scaled back in a drastic effort to curb construction costs that galloped to \$1 billion, up from an original \$555 million.

But still, the loss of the internationally renowned genius behind such iconic buildings as the Disney concert hall in Los Angeles and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, was a huge blow to project supporters — such as Mayor Bloomberg, Borough President Markowitz and Ratner himself, who have always mentioned Gehry's involvement with the project as crucial to its success.

See **GEHRY** on page 6

EDITORIAL

Just do it

Bruce Ratner's bid to save his Atlantic Yards basketball arena by simplifying its design was predictable, but for our part, we'll stick with consistency: Whatever serious reservations we've had about the larger Atlantic Yards project, the plan for the arena — though no longer the grandiose one envisioned by Frank Gehry — still merits support.

The arena remains what we have always said it is: a fundamentally vital civic project in the right place at the right time.

Now the timing better fortifies our long-held position. In the current economic climate, it would be foolishly to walk away from both the arena and the stadium.

See **GEHRY OR NOT** on page 12

CAT-ASTROPHE!

Feral felines forsaken in front yards

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The feral cat's out of the bag — and it's in Aaron Brashear's backyard! The Greenwood Heights activist is understandably feeling catfish after spotting a pair of crooks attempt to release a cat from a cage in front of his 23rd Street home on May 26.

"I like cats — but feral cats dig and [poop] in my garden," said Brashear, a graphic designer so well-known in the tiny community between the Prospect Expressway and the Greenwood Cemetery that he is often called "the Mayor of Greenwood Heights."

"They kill migratory birds that pass through the area. They spray. They're a nuisance."

Brashear confronted the two men as they removed the trapped kitty — a tiger-striped feline — from their white van in the morning.

"What the heck are you doing? Is that a feral cat?" Brashear claims he asked

See **FERAL** on page 6



Aaron Brashear, who lives on 23rd Street, says that someone is dumping feral cats at his house.

Hook, line and stinker!

Ridge fishing pier smells bad

By Thomas Nocera
for The Brooklyn Paper

Summer must be coming — because Bay Ridge's bustling 69th Street pier smells like dead fish.

On bad days, the foul reek can waft inland to Third Avenue four blocks away — and there have been too many bad days so far this year, residents say.

"It's back and it stinks!" fumed Ridge-ite Derek Zaragoza on Monday.

The stench comes from decaying fish carcasses, which are often used for bait, but then left on the pier by some fishermen.

It really does stink.

"We got more than a dozen complaints last year — and I expect more," said Community Board 10 District Manager Josephine Beckmann, who put some of the blame on the anglers.

But not all of the fish fanatics are

See **SMELL** on page 6

Staar falls into MTA's black hole

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

One of Coney Island's most popular vendors is losing her shirt because she can't sell her custom tees at the Stillwell Avenue subway stop.

Dianna Carlin said she was unable to open her Lola Staar T-shirt boutique as promised on Memorial Day — the traditional start of beach season — and doesn't think she'll open anytime soon because the blueprints for her shop have been bogged down at the Metropolitan Transportation since February.

"I really need to get that store opened



Dianna Carlin — losing her shirts.

— and Coney Island needs it, too," said Carlin, who lost her lease for a larger Boardwalk shop last winter because she frequently criticized her previous landlord, Joe Sitt.

Carlin would be ideally positioned to attract foot traffic in the subway station, which is at the Surf Avenue entrance to the subway station in Coney Island's amusement core, with the iconic Nathan's hot dog stand and the beach a short walk away. But her success depends on getting the store open during the peak summer months.

"My business is seasonal, so if they tell me I can't open until October, I really won't see any business until next summer," Carlin said.

Carlin signed a lease with the MTA in November 2007, at a time before her sharp tongue angered Sitt and when she was looking to expand her presence in Coney Island beyond her flagship store next to Ruby's bar on the Boardwalk.

See **STAAR** on page 6



SEE? WE HAVE PIZZA: Sam's Restaurant, which has been on Court Street for decades, is NOT closing. Here, Louis Migliaccio serves a pie to Marylee Patrick, Lou DiTucci and Angela Larca from Long Branch, N.J.

SON OF SAM'S

Kin's vow: Court St. institution staying

By Jacob Kleinman
for The Brooklyn Paper

You heard it here first, nothing is changing at Sam's restaurant on Court Street, despite a whirlwind of rumors this week that the creator and head pizza chef, Mario Magliaccio, had retired and was moving back to Italy.

Upon hearing the initial rumor, of course, The Brooklyn Paper headed straight to the classic Carroll Gardens Italian restaurant to bid farewell to the old man.

Instead, we came face to angry face with Louis Magliaccio, Mario's son, who set the record straight.

"We're not closing," he said.

"I'm getting sick and tired of this. If I keep hearing these rumors, people are going to pay the ultimate price. If me or any of my family members find anything contrary to [the truth], there's going to be trouble."

"My friends are very vindictive people," he added.

Whoo. Hey, hey, hey, we're cool here, whoa! So to reiterate: nothing is changing at Sam's.

That said, at the risk of getting our noses out of alignment, we do have to report that this rumor, like so many others, started with a senile grain of truth: Mario's wife died last year, and the widower is indeed back home in Italy.

But he's only on vacation. We

swear! He's coming back! Um, he's coming back, right?

"He'll come back when he decides to," said Louis. "He's 81, he's entitled to relax."

For now, Louis is in charge, and the 60-year-old place feels like it always did (and we're not just saying that because we like our kneecaps). Louis makes the pizza the same way his old man did, which makes sense, given that he grew up in the restaurant, and in the family's apartment.

So there you have it, folks. Head to Sam's for one of the best pizza pies New York has to offer. Don't believe us? But Louis Magliaccio told us so!

City Council OKs Dock Street project

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The City Council voted overwhelmingly on Wednesday to give DUMBO developer Jed Walentas the rezoning that he needs to build a controversial 17-story tower next to the Brooklyn Bridge.

The Council's 40-9 vote comes on the heels of last week's 17-4 vote in the Council's land-use committee to support Walentas's request to rezone his site on Dock Street so that he could build a 300-unit tower — which includes a public middle school and scores of units set aside as below-market-rate rentals, but will, opponents claim, forever damage views of the historic and landmarked span.

"We are grateful for today's vote by the City Council," said Jed Walentas, a principal at Two Trees Management, the DUMBO development company started by David Walentas more than two decades ago.



The 17-story Dock Street project (circled) was approved by the City Council on Wednesday.

Opponents were still furious after the vote. Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) long opposed the project on the grounds that its tallest portion would block views of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Other opponents complained that the "affordable housing" component of the project — 20 percent of its 300-odd units — aren't affordable enough.

"The 80-20 formula to me is not affordable," said Councilman Charles Barron (D-Canarsie). "Developers should pay more and do more with affordability."

But Councilwoman Leticia James (D-Fort Greene) countered such opposition by touting the middle school space that Walentas would set aside in his Beyer Blinder Belle-designed tower.

"The Dock Street project is exactly the kind of smart, innovative, carefully crafted and planned partnership for the

See **DOCK ST** on page 6



Burgertime

If you love burgers, flip to page 7 for some juicy stories!

Parents win park battle

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The short, but intense, battle for control of an athletic field in Park Slope was over faster than Gen. George Washington's defeated troops could retreat across the same hallowed ground during the Revolutionary War.

Parents, sports league organizers and the Parks Department reached a tentative agreement on Tuesday night that will allow more free play on the turf once known as J.J. Byrne Park.

Under the deal, the new artificial grass playing field will be open to anyone on Friday evenings and for big chunks of time on Saturday and Sunday afternoons — instead of just the four hours per

weekend in which organized sports teams would have been kept off pitch under the previous plans that caused such an uproar in these pages last week.

"I think we got something," said Judy Schneider, a Slope mom, who was relieved that the city reduced the amount of time that permit-holding baseball and

softball leagues would have exclusive use of the playing field along Fourth Avenue between Third and Fourth streets. "The Parks Department gave something, but we would have liked a little more after school time."

The concession from the city was highly unusual. The new turf field opened

See **PARENTS** on page 13

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Cash for clunkers

McMahon likes the bill to pay you to buy a new car

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

The House of Representatives had just passed the so-called "Cash for Clunkers" bill — a proposal on which Bay Ridge's freshman Rep. Mike McMahon played a small, but key, role — so it was time again for the latest installment of our popular feature: "McMahon on Line 1."

First off, the bill. As the name suggests, the bill, which passed on Tuesday in a 298-119 vote, would give taxpayers a \$3,500 to \$4,500 tax credit for trading in a car for a more fuel-efficient model.

As the name fails to suggest, the car doesn't need to be a clunker — just a gas-guzzler. Trade-in must get 18 miles per gallon or less to be eligible, but just a four-mile-per-gallon increase in fuel economy (which is like shooting fish in a barrel, though with an environmentally safe gun, hopefully), gets the owner a \$3,500 credit.

A 10-mpg increase gets you the full \$4,500. This sounded a lot like a way of rewarding Hummer drivers who have buyer's remorse every time they fill up (twice a day, no doubt), so we got McMahon on the horn to explain the bill.

"It's a two-pronged approach to dealing with the economy and the environment," he said. "It's a classic win-win. We're stimulating the car market with new purchase and at the same time decreasing emissions."

We still thought it sounded like a handout.

"But it will also stimu-

late the economy," McMahon said. "We're creating jobs in factories and getting the market going. It'll provide the impetus to get people to buy a new car."

Then, ever the German speaker, McMahon threw out the ultimate trump card: the Europeans did it.

"In Germany, they had a similar program and they could not produce enough



McMahon on Line 1

cars to meet demand," he said.

We pointed out that in Germany, drivers have another big incentive for reducing their consumption of fuel: it costs \$6 a gallon. And Germans needed to trade in a real clunker — at least nine years old — not merely go from 18 mpg to 22 to get a cool \$3,500.

On a personal level, McMahon played a small role in getting the bill to the floor. Originally, it was part of a much larger energy bill that isn't going to be moved until the fall. Several freshmen legislators — and, remember, McMahon is the freshman class whip — convinced Speaker Nancy Pelosi to make "Cash for Clunkers" its own bill.

"The process was good," he said. "We made it go faster."

McMahon said he has not decided whether to trade in his 2003 Honda Odyssey.

It gets in the 18- to 23-mile-per-gallon range, so that's pretty good," he said.

Monta-go St!

Heights spine to be car-free

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Heights residents: grab your walking shoes! For three Sundays in September, pedestrians will take over Montague Street for the second annual open space experiment that will close the community's primary shopping drag to automotive traffic.

Cars will be banned from the thoroughfare on Sept. 13, 20, and 27, transforming the street into a series of pedestrian plazas, according to Chelsea Maiklin of the Montague Street Business Improvement District.

As a whole, last July's street closures were a boon for Montague Street businesses, with shopkeepers observing a 20-percent increase in sale on average — but Maiklin says this year will likely be better because it will take place later in the summer.

"One difficulty with having an event in July is that you face July weather," she said. "Of our four Sundays last year, we had thunderstorms on two of them and crushing heat on one of them."

The weather isn't the only thing Maiklin is hoping will differ from the experiment's inaugural run (errr, walk).

She said the merchants association will develop programming to keep passersby occupied during the street closures — and potentially draw them to businesses.

Maiklin also noted that the Sept. 13 street closure will coincide with the Brooklyn Book Festival — a scheduling overlap that could mean bringing huge crowds to the Montague Street pedestrian experiment.

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NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

DOWNTOWN

Beef with Arby's is settled

Plans for historic Gage & Tollner site approved

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The city signed off on a plan that will allow the fast-food chain Arby's to open inside the landmarked former Gage and Tollner storefront on the Fulton Mall.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to support the proposal 7-1 only after restaurateur Raymond Chera made multiple changes to his original plans to turn the removed 1892 interior into a roast beef sandwich joint — and promised to continue working with the agency to tweak his designs for large menu sign in the rear of the restaurant.

"[This proposal] has come a long way," said Commissioner Roberta W. Washington. "The sign is the one thing that prevents this proposal from being fantastic."

Last month, the agency put Chera on the hotplate for his plans to install light-colored flooring, remove a section of an arched mirrored wall in the rear of the restaurant, construct booths against the historic red cherry wood paneled walls,



DON'T WORRY, MOM: The Landmarks Preservation Commission approved Arby's plan to open inside the historic Gage and Tollner.

that evoke the eatery's famed gas lamps.

For the most part, the agency ate up Chera's modifications. But the menu sign — which under current plans would be hung directly in front of a large mirrored wall — left some commissioners with a bad taste in their mouths.

"Why can't regular menus suffice instead of obscuring the mirror and landmark interior?" asked Commissioner Roberta Brandes Gratz.

Project architects insisted that some kind of large menu board is necessary because Arby's diners are accus-

tomed to ordering from wall-mounted menu boards.

Despite their trepidations about the sign, the commission granted Chera with a certificate of appropriateness — as long as he works with Landmarks staffers to investigate alternative designs for the menu sign that won't obstruct as much of the mirror.

After the vote, Chera — who plans to open the eatery by the end of the summer — was ecstatic.

"We're thrilled with the Landmarks decision," he said. "We've put a lot of hard work into making sure we properly preserve the historic in-

terior."

This approval was the last hurdle for the restaurateur, whose plans were previously grilled by Community Board 2 before receiving the \$-endorsement of the group's Land Use Committee.

Since the acclaimed seafood and chop shop Gage and Tollner closed in 2004, the space — which boasts arched mirrors, chandeliers, and 36 famous gas lamps — hasn't sat well with new restaurants.

A T.G.I. Friday's lasted three years before closing, and a much-ballyhooed plan to bring the soul food eatery Amy Ruth's turned sour.

FORT GREENE



GOOD INK: Partners Jessica Stockton (left) and Rebecca Fitting have signed a lease on Fulton Street.

She's getting her bookstore!

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

"A would-be bookseller has moved one step closer to bringing an independent bookstore to Fort Greene.

"It's the moment we've all been waiting for: the lease is signed, the contractors are on their way, and we've got an opening date target for September," Jessica Stockton Baguolo, the founder of Greenlight Bookstore, gushed in an e-mail to The Brooklyn Paper last week.

The lease is for a storefront at the corner of Fulton Street and S. Portland Avenue in the book-

ish heart of the neighborhood.

Fort Greene has rallied around Stockton Baguolo's business vision ever since she won a \$15,000 grant from the Brooklyn Public Library last year to do the impossible: open a bookstore in this electronic age.

But challenges remain for the shopkeeper.

There have been modest investments from neighbors, but Stockton Baguolo and her partner, Rebecca Fitting, are still seeking financial backing.

For info about Greenlight Bookstore, visit aboutgreenlightbrooklyn.blogspot.com.

PARK SLOPE

It's the day the music LIVED!

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

A beloved 14-year-old record shop in Park Slope has been saved from eviction, thanks to a lease from another landlord on the same Fifth Avenue block.

There was an outpouring of support from longtime customers and record collectors for Tony Mignone's Record and Tape Center after The Brooklyn Paper reported last month that the cramped time capsule of LPs, cassettes and — the ultimate anachronism — 8-track tapes could be dealer than disco because his landlord would not renew his month-to-month lease.

"This is my 15 minutes of fame," Mignone sang to the spot near Ninth Street that he's occupied for 38 years.



RECORD MOVE: Tony Mignone's four-decade-old Record and Tape Center on Fifth Avenue at Ninth Street will reopen nearby.

He started the business in 1965 on Fifth Avenue and Sixth Street.

Mignone's landlord de-

manded that he leave, though the issue was never Mignone's rent payments.

The landlord, who owns the deli next door, wants to expand into the space.

Mignone can't wait to start work on the new store.

"Sometimes I'm dreaming of what I want to do and how I want to set it up," the 73-year-old tune man said.

Mignone's saga unleashed a debate on The Brooklyn Paper's Web site about the changing face of Brooklyn's neighborhoods. There was a lot of support from readers upset at seeing an independent being forced out.

"His shop is old school — that's why I go there. I expect a bit more from my music buying experience than opening up an amazon.com box or watching a download click across the screen. Meeting actual people is part of that experience that you internet shops are missing," wrote a posted named Frank.

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SLOPERS: KEEP A EYE ON YOUR STUFF

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Three Park Slope residents learned the important lesson of always keeping an eye on your valuables last week when all three had wallets stolen when they were just a few feet away.

The first crime took place on May 31 inside of

the Crunch gym on Flatbush Avenue between Park and Sterling places. A 53-year-old man told cops that he had been using the leg press machine at around 7:45 pm and placed his fanny pack — yes, his fanny pack — on the floor.

When he returned with a slightly tighter fanny just a

few minutes later, he discovered that the fanny pack was gone — along with the MasterCard, house keys, \$10 bill and wallet it contained.

A few hours later a 77-year-old woman told cops that she had her purse stolen off the back of a chair at a popular Mexican restaurant on Seventh Avenue between Berkeley Place and Union Street.

The thief got the wallet, which contained \$85, plus a cell phone and various cards.

Six days later, the notorious Pathmark at the corner of Second Avenue and 12th Street was the scene of a similar crime when a 35-year-old woman left her purse on top of her shopping cart at around 9 pm. A quick-fingered thief grabbed it, and got away with a cell phone, \$60 and credit cards.

And the caper to this farcical week is the story of the Carroll Street woman who left her wallet on the top of her stoop when she went to talk to a neighbor at around noon on June 3. She lost \$100 and a fancy fountain pen from the stoop, which is between Fifth and Sixth streets.

Simple break-in
A thief broke into a St. Marks Place apartment on June 2, getting away with a

POLICE BLOTTER

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puter and other equipment, cops said.

The 31-year-old tenant of the unit, which is between Fourth and Fifth avenues, told cops that he was not home between 8:45 am and 6 pm — giving a thief time to sneak in through the back window and steal the high-tech gadgets.

Dog tied

If only the dog hadn't been locked in the bedroom, perhaps a thief might not have gotten away with more than \$4,000 in jewelry from a Fifth Avenue apartment on June 3.

The owner of the baubles told cops that she was not in the apartment, which is between 11th and 12th streets, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. During that time, the thief broke in, though it is unclear how he gained entrance. What is clear is that the potentially heroic dog could not play out a Hollywood scenario because he was locked upstairs.

The thief got gold and diamond trinkets.

Rim job

A Honda owner returned to his vehicle on June 4 to find it standing on ender blocks and all four wheels missing — a nifty theft of \$1,400 in rubber and steel.

The 55-year-old car owner told cops that he had left the Honda Fit on the block between Fifth and Sixth avenues, at around 7 pm the night before.

More car stuff
And, this being Park Slope, crimes against car owners once again required a lot of police work last week.

On June 1, a woman returned to her Honda Accord to find her trunk had been opened and a computer and other items were missing. She told cops that she had parked the car on Degraw Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues at 11 pm the night before.

On June 7, a man discovered that his Acura had been stolen from the corner of Sixth Street and Eighth Avenue. He told cops that he'd parked the 2003 model at around 10 pm the night before.

A car thief got that most sought-after of vehicles — a 1995 Honda Civic — from Prospect Park West and President Street on June 7. Cops said that the owner parked the economy car — which, despite its age, regularly shows up in these pages because of how easy it is to steal — on May 31 at around 4:30 pm and returned two hours later.

Gerik Kuntzman
84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO Boerum Hill-Downtown

No security
A woman visiting the city's Human Resources Department office on Flatbush Avenue Extension had her bag stolen from inside the lobby of the building on June 5 — even though she had asked the security guard to keep an eye on it while she went out for a smoke at around 9:45 am.

The 49-year-old lounge-abuser returned only a few minutes later, but her bag was gone, along with an iPod, Sony

smith company told cops that he'd parked the 2003 Chevy van on Fourth Avenue near 67th Street at around 1:30 am. When he returned nine hours later, he saw a smashed rear window and discovered that 14 locks and three doorbells were gone.

At around the same time on the same day, a 2002 Acura parked on Senator Street near Fourth Avenue was broken into. The thief got a navigation system, an MP3 player, an iPod and a wallet.

Ceiling grab

A member of a five-man gang grabbed the cellphone right out of the hand of an 18-year-old near the corner of 85th Street and Colonial Road on June 3.

The victim was not harmed in the 10:30 pm theft, police said.

Lock box looted

Thieves snugged \$200 when they stole a cashbox from a home on Avenue home on May 28.

The 26-year-old tenant told cops that he had left his home, which is near 83rd Street, at 11 am and returned exactly 24 hours later to discover that someone had crept into his apartment through a rear window.

The only thing missing was the lock box, officials said.

Underground

Thieves wiped a woman's handbag as she looked at a subway map on the Q-train platform at DeKalb Avenue station early on May 31.

Cops said that two men ripped her bag off her shoulder and ran off before she could respond in the 3 am. The 26-year-old woman, who was wearing a \$600 handbag, \$6 and some credit cards.

Three days later, another strapless woman was snugged this time of an iPod — while she was riding under Downtown on a Smith-Ninth Street-bound G train.

The 15-year-old victim said she was sitting on the train as it entered the Bergen Station at 3:50 pm when the thief reached over and snugged the digital music device.

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

Gut check

A 28-year-old man in the stomach on Carlton Avenue on June 21. The victim said he was shot for no apparent reason by a man he could not describe at 11:20 pm near the corner of Park Avenue.

The police report indicated that a second person was shot, but cops were unable to find this other wounded person.

Skin off nose

A teenager held off a would-be mugger in Fort Greene Park on June 3, but suffered a slash to his proboscis defending himself.

The 15-year-old young man said he was attacked by another teen on the playground near Myrtle and N. Portland avenues at 2:50 pm. The assailant, trying to steal his iPod, cut the victim's nose with a knife, but fled when he played digital music on the iPod.

Doggie bag

A burglar broke into a Myrtle Avenue restaurant overnight on June 3 and emptied the cash register.

Workers at La Stalla, a Mexican and Italian joint at Myrtle and N. Portland avenues, said the intruder broke in through a side door after 10 pm on June 3 and before 12:30 the following afternoon.

The restaurant claimed that the thief stole \$2,815 in credit card receipts and a brown bag.

Hard money

A burglar's break-in was cut short on S. Oxford Street when he stumbled upon a woman working in the house on June 5.

The 38-year-old housekeeper told cops that she was doing some tasks on the third floor at 1:22 pm when the thief appeared in the unit, which is between DeKalb and Lafayette avenues.

He immediately fled, but it was soon realized that he had stolen a laptop and jewelry from the 54-year-old woman who lives there.

Hood hoodlums

A punk sitting on a teenage woman's car on Clifton Place punched the owner in the mouth after she told him and his cronies to leave somewhere else on June 6.

The victim, 19, spotted four teenagers using her vehicle, parked between Grand and Clason avenues at 3 pm.

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge

Found inside

A Fourth Avenue woman woke up to find a burglar rooting through her stuff on June 9 — and it's a good thing she woke up, because it led to the man's arrest.

The woman told cops that the stranger startled her inside the bedroom of her home, near 84th Street, at 1 am. When she screamed, the man ran off, but was apprehended by officers, thanks to witness reports.

Lock 'em up!

Thieves broke into a lock-smith truck early on June 6, taking enough locks and doorknobs to start a hardware store.

The employee of the lock-

smith company told cops that he'd parked the 2003 Chevy van on Fourth Avenue near 67th Street at around 1:30 am.

When he returned nine hours later, he saw a smashed rear window and discovered that 14 locks and three doorbells were gone.

At around the same time on the same day, a 2002 Acura parked on Senator Street near Fourth Avenue was broken into. The thief got a navigation system, an MP3 player, an iPod and a wallet.

Ceiling grab

A member of a five-man gang grabbed the cellphone right out of the hand of an 18-year-old near the corner of 85th Street and Colonial Road on June 3.

The victim was not harmed in the 10:30 pm theft, police said.

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BROOKLYN POLITICS

THE SMOKE-FILLED ROOM

It's a scream! Dean endorses two in same race!

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper
Howard Dean came to Park Slope to praise Josh Skaller, but the fiery former presidential candidate didn't succeed in actually burying one of Skaller's rivals for a City Council seat.

Dean effusively praised Skaller, a longtime fixture in local progressive politics, and later campaigned with him at the F-train station at Seventh Avenue, but was forced to admit that he had also endorsed Brad Lander in the race to succeed Bill DeBlasio and represent Park Slope, Carroll Gardens and Windsor Terrace in the Council.

Dean called the dual endorsements a mix-up. "I told Brad that I would not endorse [anyone] before I realized that this was Josh's race," he said, later adding that he did not have a plan to campaign with Lander as he did with Skaller on Tuesday. "Brad is a perfectly good candidate, but he's a progressive. Most people like him. So I tried to do what I think was the fair thing, which is to endorse both."

The Brooklyn Paper's Politicrasher columnist broke the story of the endorsement on the award-winning BrooklynPaper.com, so reporters were primed to pounce on Dean when he appeared beside Skaller at the Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats' makeshift clubhouse on 10th Street to endorse Skaller.

He admitted to raining on Skaller's day in the sun, but

kept the focus on the candidate.

"We need independent minds like Josh's in the City Council," Dean said, praising Skaller, a computer systems director for GlobalWorks Group, an international marketing and branding company. He closed by calling Skaller "the next councilman from the 39th district."

Skaller, who worked on Dean's 2004 presidential campaign, said he appreciated Dean's endorsement because he shared the former Vermont governor's "grassroots" approach to political



Howard Dean endorsed Josh Skaller, and campaigned with him in Park Slope on Tuesday — but he also endorsed Skaller's rival, Brad Lander.

mobilization that emphasizes "ordinary people giving small amounts of money [and] talking their friends."

For his part, Lander, the former head of the Pratt Center for Community Development, said he was "thrilled to have Gov. Dean's co-endorsement."

"He's a progressive champion on health care and bringing the troops home," Lander added. "His endorsement shows that there are two strong progressive candidates in the race."

Lander has also been endorsed by the Working Families Party; Local 32BJ, a



Election '09
39TH DISTRICT

union; Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-Coney Island); and state Sen. Daniel Squadron (D-Brooklyn Heights).

A third left-leaning candidate, Bob Zuckerman, who is

on leave from his job as director of the Gowanus Canal Development Corporation, has been endorsed by a long list of not-so-top names: Assemblyman Richard Gottfried; Councilman Alan Gerson; state Sen. Tom Duane; and Assemblymembers Jonathan Bing, Deborah Glick, Michael Kellner, Daniel O'Donnell and Matt Titone.

A fourth candidate, John Heyer, has been endorsed by the Independent Neighborhood Democrats.

The final candidate, Gary Reilly, has reported no major endorsements.

Call it the 'Fray by the Bay'

Capano to take on Gentile for Ridge Council seat

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

Republican operative Bob Capano confirmed rumors that he would attempt to unseat incumbent Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge), formally opening his campaign last Wednesday.

Capano, a one-time staffer to scandal-scarred former Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) as well as Borough President Markowitz — told The Brooklyn Paper that he'll campaign on three issues:

- supporting the continuation and expansion of youth programs by "getting a YMCA or other youth center built"
- ensuring that seniors "have access to the services and programs,"
- fighting to make sure that small business "survive and thrive."

Capano claimed he is better in touch

with Ridge residents than the Gentile, who won the seat in 2003.

"Our community needs a councilman who understands the life and struggles of hardworking residents," said Capano, who has worked as a grocery store manager, a professor, and leader of the Brooklyn Young Republicans and the 68th Precinct Youth Council.

Capano also claimed that his rival has made things worse by frequently criticizing Mayor Bloomberg's policies.

"All our councilmember knows how to do is antagonize this mayor," said Capano, who last fall was blown out by 40 percentage points by Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny (D-Bay Ridge), but landed 53 percent of the vote in Bay Ridge.

But winning Bay Ridge won't be as

easy this time, as the one-time conservative stronghold has swung towards Democrats with the re-election of Gentile in 2007 and last year's election of Rep. Mike McMahon (D-Bay Ridge).

A spokesperson for the Gentile campaign said, "Councilman Gentile has a proven record of delivering for his district. He secured millions for public schools, found sites for new school construction, and fought for the delivery of homeowners' \$400 rebate checks. He has done all this while defending his constituents from the mayor's attempts to increase property taxes, add tolls and extend term limits. [H] sounds like Capano supports tolls."

Capano dismissed that. "The things he said opposed passed anyway," said Capano.

BLOTTER...

Continued from page 4
caped from the concert space with the victim's bag, which contained a debit card, cash, iPod, and sweatshirt.

Poison Oak!

Thieves took over the Union Avenue bar Royal Oak and snatched at least two unattended handbags from booths on June 6.

- One 24-year-old reveler's purse was lifted between 2:45 am and 3 am. The thief escaped from the venue with the victim's credit cards, wallet, and keys.

- A 27-year-old woman lost a purse that she'd left unattended for about three minutes while she danced at around 3:20 am.

In this case, the thief escaped from the drinking hole, which is near the corner of Richardson Street, with the

victim's credit cards, camera, and cellphone.

Computer bug

A crook broke into a North 11th Street building and snatched an Apple laptop while the victim was away.

The thief got into the residence, which is between Driggs Avenue and Rochling Street, between May 20 and June 5 and snatched the laptop, which was sitting on a desk in front of a window facing the street.

Teen tormented

A band of hoodlums kicked, slapped, and punched a 15-year-old while she walked to the train station on May 27.

The hoodlums confronted the victim at the corner of Meserole Avenue and Leonard Street at around 2 pm.

— Ben Muessig

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Cabbies hacked off at Ikea

Cop sweep brings reforms at furniture giant

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper
A city crackdown on delivery cab drivers who cruised for furniture-hugging passengers at the remote Ikea in Red Hook has led the Swedish home-furnishings behemoth to create a lively dispatch station for shoppers.

The gigantic Beard Street emporium was a fertile hunting ground for fares until police and the Taxi and Limousine Commission swooped through the area last month, issuing summonses for illicit pickups and even confiscating vehicles from unregistered drivers.

Commissioner Matthew Daus said the agency was merely "responding to some complaints about illegal activity at Ikea."

The efforts have not completely curbed black-market cabbies, though. Just last Wednesday, an argument between rival chauffeurs erupted into violence with one cabbie hitting the other with a baseball bat. Police arrested the slugging.

With the exception of the beating, a spokesman for Ikea said the store was unaware of rogue car services circling their one-year-old megastore.

But the dispatcher from Cobble Hill Car Service, the officially recognized fleet at the Red Hook Ikea, said the



Cobble Hill Car Service driver Rachid Reyhan mans a stand at the Ikea in Red Hook.

store wanted to ward off the freelancing cabbies.

"Before, it was mixed up," said Naser Baw, whose company has been chauffeur-ing Ikea customers for more than a month. "Cars would come

with private license plates and charge varying rates. Now the dispatcher is responsible and everyone gets the same rates.

Shoppers are supposed to go to a booth to make ar-

rangements for a ride in one of the waiting cars at fixed rates, but a Brooklyn Paper reporter observed one woman successfully haggle a \$15 ride to Carroll Gardens down to \$10 by threatening to call an-



other company.

City law allows only yellow cabs to pick up passengers. To legally hop into a registered livery cab, passengers must first call the company to request a car.

Still, unlawful cab service is widespread in the outer boroughs. And entrepreneurial livery drivers cruising for business at Ikea is an inevitable development of the store's distant location in a neo-transit starved neighborhood.

But for now, the store's security detail keeps its vigilant eyes peeled for illicit pickups.

"If anyone comes by to pick up customers illegally, security removes them," Baw told The Brooklyn Paper.

— with Jacob Kleinman

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GEHRY OUT...

Continued from page 1

"Frank Gehry is one of the world's most respected and celebrated architects," Ratner's official Atlantic Yards Web site still said this week, despite Gehry's termination.

In a statement last week, Ratner continued to praise Gehry, even as he announced that the architect had been sacked.

"I have an immense gratitude toward Frank Gehry for his amazing vision, unparalleled talent and steadfast partnership," Ratner said.

"Throughout this process — as litigation produced delay, as rising construction costs impacted the budgets of all developers, and as a slowing economy altered expectations — Frank and his team have shown remarkable flexibility and professionalism, making cost-effective revisions as needed. The current economic climate is not right for this design, and with Frank's understanding, the arena is undergoing a redesign that will make it more limited in scope."

Gehry parted with solemn words, saying, "While there are always regrets at designs not realized, we greatly appreciate our ongoing relationship with Bruce and his team."

Forest City announced that the project would be completed by Ellerbe Becket, a firm that has designed 15 NBA and NHL arenas. A rendering put out by the company indicates a fairly common design.

The revised plans from Becket will cost \$200 million less than Gehry's last-ditch design. The savings are not just in the aesthetics — the new arena will

be less functional. Unlike the original Barclays Center blueprints, the simpler model will not be large enough for National Hockey League specifications, forestalling the possibility of the New York Islanders moving to Brooklyn from their much-loathed arena in Nassau County.

Critics of Atlantic Yards unleashed a swift backlash against the change, accusing Ratner of a classic bait-and-switch and trying to appear to be frugal with public money at the project's low-water mark of public support.

"Embracing a different design that

scales-down the project does not address the inherent problems with the Atlantic Yards proposal or process, for does it convince me that this wasn't a quick attempt to gain support through a supposed 'budget-conscious' design?" Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene).

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STAAR...

Continued from page 1

Now, she's looking just to regain a toe-hold on the hard-to-crack peninsula.

"I call [the MTA] all the time and I get absolutely nothing out of them. I could pay them rent right now," she said.

The MTA blamed a bureaucratic paper jam.

"We're currently reviewing those plans," said Kevin Ortiz, an MTA spokesman. "The department overseeing them is backlogged."

The MTA reopened the European-style Stillwell Avenue hub in 2005 after a \$300-million renovation. It has retail space indoors and outside facing the street, with chain restaurants like Baskin Robbins and Dunkin' Donuts already on the premises. But the commercial space has never been at full occupancy.

For those still looking for a "Save Coney Island" T-shirt, you don't have to go around town. Carlin opened a satellite stand in the popular Brooklyn Flea trading post in Fort Greene. Her apparel is also available in the Dreamland roller rink — another Carlin-run operation — in the historic Childs restaurant building on West 21st Street.

Management that cast doubt about whether or not the city did a full job of investigating whether other sites for a public middle school could be more cost-effective.

At a prior hearing, Councilman Eric Goia (D-Queens) called one of the e-mails "the most disturbing document

that I have seen in my eight years in Council."

The rezoning bill now goes Mayor Bloomberg for an expected signature into law. Earlier this year, Borough President Markowitz called for a taller and

thinner building) and the City Planning Commission (which suggested a slightly shorter building with other minor alterations) already approved the rezoning.

Meanwhile, opponents, and their celebrity backers including Ken Burns, Gabriel Byrne, Helen Hunt, Gary Sinise and David McCullough, are holding out hope that state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo will re-

view the e-mail exchanges and step in.

A review by The Brooklyn Paper earlier this year revealed that very few public views of the bridge would be obscured by the tower.

SYNAGOGUES

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SMELL

Continued from page 1

at fault, said Beth Kelly, a regular fisherman on the pier.

Kelly claims it's only a few bottom-feeders who are giving the fishing community a bad name — and a messy reputation.

"Someone just don't clean anything," he put up. "Us regular fishermen put up our own boards to start on. We don't use anything else."

Kelly also claimed that this fish stinks from the head down — the city is actually to blame.

"The Parks Department should help take care of it, but they ain't good for [fish excrement]," the fisherman said, displaying a sailor's mouth.

A Parks spokesman said the agency cleans the pier as regularly as the tides themselves.

"Every day, our maintenance crews clean the pier of litter and empty the trash cans," spokesman Phil Abramson told The Brooklyn Paper.

But some fishermen are as relentless as Captain Ahab in scolding anyone (though "Moby Dick" fans might well remember that Ahab wasn't all there).

"It stinks around maybe one or two times a week. One time, one guy, that's his name and you know who gave him that name."

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Big-top Coney

The Cyclone and Parachute Jump aren't the only landmarks on Coney Island's skyline anymore! Last Friday, Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey set up at West 21st Street and Surf Avenue, raising its big top for the highly anticipated "Coney Island Boom A Ring" opener on Thursday night. Performances continue through Sept. 7.

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GO BROOKLYN

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 12, 2009

Burger bash!

Get moo-ving for a summer of hamburger delights

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

You know you want it. The only question is, how.

Maybe it's the recession, maybe it's the rehabilitation of beef's reputation, maybe it's just the primal need to put meat on a bun, but Brooklyn is in the midst of its biggest burger renaissance since the invention of the George Foreman grill.

The wider availability of grass-fed, organic beef has certainly brought some vegetarians back over from the Bark Side, but the main reason why everyone is jumping on the patty wagon is taste.

"The fact is, burgers are America's favorite food," said Lee Schragger, founder and director of the New York Wine and Food Festival. "I never met a burger I didn't like."

Schragger, of course, is biased; his two-year-old festival, a spin-off of his popular South Beach version, will hold its second annual Burger Bash in DUMBO this fall — and tickets go on sale on Monday.

But bias or not, Schragger is doing something to champion Brooklyn's burgers. Last year's event, as readers of The Brooklyn Paper well recall, forgot to include a Brooklyn hamburger (until our staff and Borough President Markowitz cried, "Fowl!"). This year, Schragger's licking his wound by putting on the menu burgers from two Brooklyn icons landmarks, Dumont in Williamsburg and Mullane's Pub in Fort Greene.

As you might imagine, we headed to both places immediately.



Mullane's specializes in fancy toppings and funny names ("Elliot's Burger," for example, features crispy onions, cheddar cheese and a horseradish sauce, while the "Fort Greene Burger" is covered in red pepper sauce, caramelized onions and mozzarella).

Meanwhile, Dumont (and its spin-off, Dumont Burger) focuses on simplicity.

"It's a slightly leaner mix of chuck and some brisket, with a secret marinade thrown in," said Dave Perazzo, the chef du cuisine at the Union Avenue eatery. "But it all starts with quality meat. The simpler the better. If you start throwing in crazy stuff, all you'll taste is the crazy stuff, not the meat."

ENTER
The Brooklyn Paper
BURGER BASH CONTEST!
SEE PAGE 9

Deirdre Finegan, who co-owns Mullane's with her husband, agrees that the meat is the key. She gets it delivered fresh every day from Patty's Meat Market on Seventh Avenue in Dyker Heights — an 80-percent meat/20-percent fat mix that she swears by.

The toppings are just to keep it interesting," she said, "so it's not the standard pub burger."

Over at Morton's, the high-end steakhouse, Executive Chef Joe Riala also goes for an 80-20 meat-fat mix. "That's just enough fat to hold the burger together," he said.

"Any more fat would be greasy and shrink down too much. Any less, and it's too dry."

He wouldn't reveal what cuts of meat he uses, but he did give away one state secret: he pours in a little tomato juice, and oils the outside of the burger before tossing it onto the blazing hot grill.

If it all starts with the meat, there's no better place to start than with Eddie Dmytro, owner of Patty's (and, conveniently, his last name is pronounced "d'MEAT-ro").

See **BURGER** on page 9

Borough's burgers

Here are our favorite unsung patties

The Brooklyn Paper

Everyone has enjoyed the widely lauded burgers at Dumont and Mullane's, but have you savored Brooklyn's unsung burgers? Get on the patty wagon with this handy GO Brooklyn guide to the borough's most underrated burgers.

Sheep Station

When it comes to burger making, the Australian eatery Sheep Station takes a page from Australian Rules Football — and that means anything goes.

The so-called "Sheep's Burger" boasts thinly sliced beets, lettuce, tomatoes and onions, and a sliced pineapple for slight tinge of sweetness. Top that off with a fried egg and a thick slab of Aussie cheddar and you've got a no-holds-barred burger bonanza (\$11).

Sheep Station (149 Fourth Ave. at Douglass Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4337).

Grand Canyon

Back in the day, this Montague Street diner was the first of the "gourmet" burgers, a seven-ounce monster that brought hamburgers back from exile in greasy spoons and school cafeterias. Sure, Grand Canyon's novelty has worn off a bit, but the eddy-sized burger remains a mouth-watering classic (\$7.95, complete with fries. Cheese is \$3.00 more). And the order is practically on your table before you can say, "Two all beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun."

Grand Canyon (141 Montague St., between Henry and Clinton streets, (718) 777-1402).

Pete's Waterfront Ale House

When you're ready to get away from Brooklyn's bourgeois burgers and their fancy accompaniments, head to Pete's for a hearty, utilitarian meat mound. Forged from a half-pound of Angus, the "Waterfront Super Burger" (\$10.95, plus \$1 for cheese) is a thick, succulent sandwich with no frills — just flavor.

Pete's Waterfront Ale House (155 Atlantic Ave., between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 522-3794).

Bonnie's Grill

Everyone knows Bonnie's Grill serves a juicy diner-style cheeseburger, but the hidden gem at the neighborhood haunt is actually its portobello burger (\$7.95). Though Bonnie's classifies this vegetarian-friendly offering as a sandwich — relying on its decent veggie burger to fill the role of prime produce patty — this meal on a bun boasts a succulent and complex flavor.

Bonnie's Grill (278 Fifth Ave. at Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 369-9527).

Skinflints

This beloved family restaurant is off the beaten path for many Brooklyn foodies, but

Yellow Hook residents know that Skinflints grills the best burgers in the Bay Ridge. Served pub-style on a toasted English muffin, this juicy burger is the epitome of good bar food. If you're wondering, the word "skinflint" means a miserly person — and that has nothing to do with the size, quality, or price of these perfect patties (\$6.75, plus \$2.20 for cheese).

Skinflints (2902 Fifth Ave. at 79th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-1116).

Building on Bond

Burgers might be an American staple, but that doesn't mean they can't be spiced up with some international flavor. The geniuses behind the patties at Building on Bond have added chorizo to the mix, resulting in a smoky, juicy burger with a rich flavor (88¢, plus \$1 for cheese). Served on a buttery brioche and topped with a bit of Gravy, it's one of the finest burgers in the borough.

Building on Bond (112 Bond St., at Pacific Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 853-8687).

MUSIC

It's a rap

The Brooklyn Hip Hop Festival will return to DUMBO on June 20, bringing rap stars and some 8,000 hip-hop fans to the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge for the fifth annual summer-time jam.

Legendary emcees including the tongue-twisting Queens lyricist Pharoahe Monche, the acclaimed Brooklyn duo Snif-N-Wessun, and the political rabble-rousers Dead Prez, will join turntablists DJ Premiere and others in the daytime fest.

"In previous years we've had one clear headliner, but now we have all of these great acts — it's like each one is a headliner," said concert organizer Wes Jackson, who in past years booked KRS-One and Ghostface Killah.

And for the first time, the rap festival will feature a second stage where up-and-comers — like Nyle, Eagle Nebula and the Brown Bag All Stars — will spit rhymes in front of a large audience.

Brooklyn Hip Hop Festival at Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park (enter park on Main Street at Plymouth Streets in DUMBO), June 20, noon to 8 pm. Recommended donation, \$10; VIP tickets, \$25 to \$200. For information, visit www.brooklynbocega.com. — Ben Muessegger

THEATER

'Lear' here!

Take that, Joseph Papp!

Brooklyn is set to steal the spotlight from Manhattan's late and legendary champion of summer Shakespeare this July, when Park Slope's Gallery Players inaugurates a new seasonal festival with "King Lear."

The 14th Street-based theater company is celebrating its 42nd year by staging The Bard's most famous soap opera, the story of a senile king and the three daughters who vie for his throne.

It's all part of Players Shakespeare, a summer festival that the company hopes will become a wider, annual event that will include a summer youth program and performances in Prospect Park.

Shakespeare in the Park? It sounds like the "wheel is come full circle." After all, the late great Papp was born in Brooklyn.

"King Lear" at the Gallery Players (199 14th St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 832-0671, July 23–Aug. 2. Tickets are \$18 (\$15 for children).

— Evan Gardner

ART

Jiggly with it

Once a household staple, Jell-O has been devalued by a new generation of foodie New Yorkers who'd rather treat themselves to an organic rhubarb crumble with crystallized ginger shavings than a jiggling green goo.

But a group of artists believes Jell-O can reclaim its glory, thanks to an upcoming competition at the Gowanus Studio Space.

"Jell-O has been pushed in the back ground," explained contest co-organizer Nadia Siddiqui. "We're trying to make it exciting to eat again."

Last weekend, the Jell-O enthusiasts held a workshop to teach would-be Jell-O molders to design their own forms using whatever shapes they could think of. Competition co-organizer Michelle Zatta earned the respect of newbies with her stapler and wrench molds (pictured).

"I will be very impressed if someone comes in with a Frank Lloyd Wright Jell-O mold that tastes good," said Sarah Marie Amoinette, who conceived the idea of the contest while perusing an old Jell-O cookbook.

The best entries will be those that are both aesthetically pleasing and delicious, said one judge, Tran Tran, the Greenpoint artist who recently launched a puppet-hosted cooking show on the Independent Film Channel.

"I'll be looking for a lot of creativity and concept execution," said Tran. "It also has to taste good."

Jell-O competition at the Gowanus Studio Space (119 Eighth St., between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (347) 351-5753), June 20, 6 pm. For info, visit www.gowanusstudio.org. Registration ends on June 12. — Jacob Kleinman

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HERE TO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
June 12

SATURDAY
June 13

SATURDAY
June 13

SUNDAY
June 14

FRIDAY
June 19

Showboat

Shake a sea-leg and get over to the gala fundraiser for Port-Side New York, the Red Hook maritime educational organization. A cargo hold full of nautical items are on the auction block. And with harbor images all around, and beer and wine (and hors d'oeuvres) coming from the galley, you can drink like a sailor. Not to belabor this point, but it will be a hull of a good time.

6 pm, Portside New York fundraiser at the Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave., at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 852-0821). Tickets, \$50.

7:30 pm, Kimber Varley at Peter's Candy Store, 709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770. Free.

Ride the 'Crest'

The Crest Hardware Store's bohemian arts festival is back with more than 100 bands (including Chin Chin, pictured), D.J.s, and artists. The main event is the music at the hardware store and Macri Park. Better still, Union Pool and Macri Park Bar will be offering specials.

Noon–9 pm, Crest Fest at Crest Hardware (558 Metropolitan Ave., between Lorimer Street and Union Avenue in Williamsburg) and Macri Park (at Union and Metropolitan avenues). Free. Call (718) 388-9521 or info.

See the flea

The Brooklyn Flea has yet another new location — this time as the first tenant in a newly created public marketplace under the Brooklyn Bridge. This one will be similar to the popular original version at Bishop Loughlin HS in Fort Greene and this winter's extra crispy indoor antiques market in DUMBO. There'll also be food, served up by the Red Hook vendors and other local treat purveyors.

11 am–6 pm, Brooklyn Flea, under the Brooklyn Bridge (Water Street and Bishop Loughlin Street in DUMBO). Visit www.brownstoner.com/brownstoner/flea for info.

Freedy at last!

As far as we're concerned, the best show of 2008 was Freedy Johnston's performance at Southpaw last April when he played his irreplaceable 1992 album "Can You Fly" from "Trying to Tell You I Don't Know" all the way through to "We Will Shine." This under-appreciated former Williamsburger will do it again — plus add in the inevitable cover of "Wichita Lineman" — tonight at Union Hall. Do not miss this show.

8 pm, Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400). \$15.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, JUNE 12
FILM, "TAKUVA — A MAN'S FEAR OF GOD": Part of the Muslim Voices series. 11:20 pm, 650 pm Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org.
FESTIVAL: See Web site for complete schedule. 11:30 pm show (\$25 for low, \$100 for full festival). 3:30 pm, Brooklyn Heights Cinema (70 Henry St. at Orange Street in Brooklyn Heights). www.bhcinema.org.
FILM, "SATIN ROUGE": Part of the Muslim Voices series. 11:40 pm, 9:15 pm, Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org.
SOUNDSCAPE PERFORMANCE: Domain Catera's improvisational algorithm-based "TheComposition." Free. 7 pm, The Hogar Collection (343 Grand St. at Hester Street in Williamsburg, (718) 388-5022). www.hogarcollection.com.
THEATER, "MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING": Outdoor performance of Shakespeare's comedy, now set in the world of baseball. Free. 7 pm, Fort Greene Park, Marty's Monument (Washington Park and Myrtle Avenue in Fort Greene). www.theaterarts.com.
READING, LYNN SAVILLE: Author of "Night Shift." Release party. Free. 7 pm, Book Court (164 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677). www.bookcourt.org.
ART OPENING, "See Cels": A selection of erotic collage. Free. 7:10 pm, 3rd Ward (195 Morgan Ave. at Shag Street in Bushwick, (718) 715-4961). www.3rdward.com.
MUSIC, "A MASKED BALL": Brooklyn Repertory Opera's production of Verdi opera. \$20 (\$10 students and seniors). 7:30 pm, Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-6766). www.brooklynlyceum.org.
THEATER, "RICHARD III": Sulayman Ali-Bassam's remake of Shakespeare's tragedy, set in the contemporary Arab world. \$25–\$45. BAM

Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockaway Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org.
ALVIN ALEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER: Two programs alternate. \$25–\$95. 7:30 pm, Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org.
READING, JEFFREY B. PERRY: Author of "Habitat: The Voice of Harlem Radicalism, 1883–1918." Free. 7:30 pm, Barnes & Noble (267 Seventh Ave. at Fifth Street in Park Slope, (718) 636-4100). www.barnesandnoble.com.
THEATER, "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK ALLEY": Mother-daughter drama. \$20 (\$12 seniors and children). 8 pm, Restoration Park (1368 Fulton St. at Many Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 636-0918). www.restorationpark.com.
THEATER, "BIG GIRLS CLUB (THE HAPPY HAPPY DANCE PRINCESS SHOW)": Part of the Antidressant Festival. \$15. 8 pm, Brick Theater (1575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 707-6189). www.bricktheater.com.
BLACK BOX NEW PLAY FESTIVAL: Short plays by Edward Verducci, Daniel Damiano, Michael Kevin Baldwin, Rich Eppley and Allan B. Lefkowitz. \$15 (\$12 seniors and children). 8 pm, Gallery Playhouse (199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 352-3101). www.galleryplayhouse.com.
CHORAL CONCERT: Brooklyn Conservatory Chorus presents works by Debussy, Copland, Monteverdi and more. \$10 (\$5 students and seniors). 8 pm, Brooklyn Conservatory of Music (58 Seventh Ave. between St. Johns and Lincoln places in Park Slope, (718) 623-3300). www.brooklynconservatory.com.
CLASSICAL CONCERT: Works by Bach, Schubert and Beethoven. \$35 (\$20 students). 8 pm, Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 643-3027). www.bargemusic.org.
THEATER, "GOD IS ONE IN 40 SECOND": One-minute play festival. \$5. 8 pm, New West Theater at Brick Theater (1575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 707-6189). www.bricktheater.com.
WED, JUNE 17
Community Board 2 Land Use Committee. Monthly meeting. 6 pm, NYU-Polytechnic Institute (327 Jay St. between Johnson Street and Myrtle Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 596-5410).
Community Board 7 full board. 6:30 pm, Community Board 7 (4201 Fourth Ave. at 43rd Street in Sunset Park, (718) 854-0000).
Community Board 4 Parks and Recreation Committee. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm, Litchfield Villa (95 Prospect Park West, at Fifth Street in Park Slope, (718) 643-3027).
To fill an event in the Civic Calendar e-mail Newsroom@BrooklynPaper.com.

http://
Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

at Hill Place in Flatbush, (718) 951-5000 X2768).
MUSIC, JAZZ: The Second Approach Trio with Russell Ruff. \$10. 9 pm, Ibeam Music Studio (168 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus). www.beamrock.com.
THEATER, "GLEE CLUB": Part of the Antidressant Festival. \$15. 10 pm, Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 707-6189). www.bricktheater.com.
FILM, "THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW": Cult classic. Fundraiser for the Flatbush Development Corporation. \$13. Midnight, Kent Theater (1170 Coney Island Ave. between Avenue K and Avenue L in Flatbush). fdoonline.org.

SAT, JUNE 13
OUTDOORS AND TOURS
INTRODUCTION TO BIRDWATCHING: Free. Noon, Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400). www.prospectpark.org/audubon.
GOWANUS DISCOVERY TOUR: Canoe or kayak the canal and help collect the trash. Free. 10 am, Gowanus Canal (Second Street and Bond Street in Gowanus). www.gowanuscanal.org.
DISCOVERY TOUR: Meet birds and other wildlife, guided by a naturalist. Free. 3 pm, Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400). www.prospectpark.org/audubon.
PERFORMANCE
MUSIC, NORTHEAST FESTIVAL: All-day rock event at various North Brooklyn locations. \$10. Visit northeastfestival.com for full schedule, line and venues.
MUSIC, CREST FEST: Opening of the Crest Hardware Show with live music and D.J.s. Benefits for Crest Hardware (558 Metropolitan Ave. between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 388-9521). www.cresthardwareshow.com.
ALVIN ALEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER: 2 pm and 7:30 pm. See Friday, June 12.
THEATER, "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK ALLEY": 3 pm and 8 pm. See Friday, June 12.
THEATER, "SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE": Audience is guided through the streets of Williamsburg. Part of the Antidressant Festival. \$20. 3 pm, Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 707-6189). www.bricktheater.com.

CIVIC CALENDAR

MON, JUNE 15
Community Board 2 Parks and Recreation Committee. Monthly meeting. 6 pm, Brooklyn Hospital (121 DeKalb Avenue, at St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 596-5410).
TUES, JUNE 16
Community Board 2 Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Monthly meeting. 6 pm, St. Francis College (180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 596-5410).
84th Precinct Community Council.

Monthly meeting. 7 pm, (45 Main St., Suite 411, between Water and Plymouth streets in DUMBO, (718) 875-4400).
68th Precinct Community Council. Monthly meeting. 7 pm, 68th Precinct stationhouse (1333 68th St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Bay Ridge, (718) 439-4200).
88th Precinct Community Council. Monthly meeting. 7 pm, Brown Memorial Baptist Church (484 Washington Ave., at the corner of Gates Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 875-6811).

WED, JUNE 17
Community Board 2 Land Use Committee. Monthly meeting. 6 pm, NYU-Polytechnic Institute (327 Jay St. between Johnson Street and Myrtle Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 596-5410).
Community Board 7 full board. 6:30 pm, Community Board 7 (4201 Fourth Ave. at 43rd Street in Sunset Park, (718) 854-0000).
Community Board 4 Parks and Recreation Committee. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm, Litchfield Villa (95 Prospect Park West, at Fifth Street in Park Slope, (718) 643-3027).
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Ice, ice, baby

Helado de Coco means it's summer

By Catherine J. Harden
for The Brooklyn Paper

The calendar waits until June 21, but in Sunset Park, summer actually begins in late March. That's when Fabio and Priscilla Fernandez reopen their beloved Fourth Avenue shop, Helado de Coco and Tropical Ices, after six months on hiatus.

"I've been cutting their ices for years — and they're one of the oldest businesses around here," said Aguilar-Nelson, angular, who visits almost every day with his 14-year-old son, David.

Like the Aguilar, many customers make a routine of stopping at Helado de Coco, which is near 50th Street. "I come back every year, some-

DINING

Helado de Coco and Tropical Ices 4971 Fourth Ave., between 49th and 50th streets in Sunset Park, (718) 492-8644.

times two or three times a week," says Sunset Park resident Vilma Vilatoro, whose typical order includes pineapple, guava and mango ices, each paired with coconut.

"You can't leave out the coconut," she says. "It's the best."

Plenty of other shops offer traditional ice cream and water-based Italian ices, but the milk-based concoctions that the Fernandezes have crafted for more than 20 years stake out their own territory somewhere

in between.

The best-selling flavor, coconut, has the fresh, light flavor of coconut milk without the cloying sweetness or heavy mouthfeel of traditional ice cream. Bits of shredded coconut add contrast to the otherwise smooth texture. At least 60 tubs of coconut ice are in the freezer at any given time, and Fabio makes 12-15 buckets a day of that flavor alone.

The shop offers two dozen other flavors, as well, making it tough to pick just one (good thing you won't have to). \$1.75 buys a small cup with two flavors, and a \$3 cup comes with three flavors.

There are standards like blueberry, cherry, and lemon, as well as exotic fruits like sourdop and nancy. Each year, the Fernandezes



Yum: Everyone loves the ices at Helado de Coco on Fourth Avenue in Sunset Park.

introduce two new flavors or bring back old favorites. This season's are papaya and crunchy almond.

The anticipation of discovering the new flavors for the year is another element of the tradition that inspires the shop's loyal following.

"When we open the store in March, it could be snowing out, but when people see our gate up, they start banging on the door," Priscilla Fernandez said. "When they see us, they know summer is on its way."

BURGER BASH CONTEST!



Be a burger king

The Brooklyn Paper

It's time to put your buns in our mouth!

Thanks to our partners at the Food Network and the New York City Wine and Food Festival, The Brooklyn Paper has created a once-in-a-lifetime contest opportunity for YOU to compete against some of the best burger maestros in the country at the second annual Burger Bash this fall in DUMBO.

Here's how to enter: Go to www.BrooklynPaper.com/burgerbash and tell us your best burger recipe. We'll pick three finalists who will cook up their burger for our judging panel.

The best burger wins — and its creator will compete against the chefs at Dumont in Williamsburg, Mullane's Pub in Fort Greene City Hall, Fatty Crab, the Old Homestead, Shake Shack and the Spot-

ted Pig in Manhattan; and Al Roker, who is back, despite a poor showing last year.

All the rules are at www.BrooklynPaper.com/burgerbash, but a few guidelines need some emphasis.

1. We have no prejudices about what constitutes a great burger, but make sure your recipe sounds like something we'd like to eat.

2. If you're one of the three finalists, be prepared to cook it at a mutually agreed-upon time and place.

3. The eventual winner of the contest must be prepared to represent him or herself at the Burger Bash, which is on Friday, Oct. 9 in DUMBO. All materials, including food and cooking equipment, will be provided by the New York City Wine and Food Festival, but the chef must provide his own labor and staff.

BURGER...

Continued from page 7

"We have the best meat, I won't lie to you," he said. "It's a mix of three parts chuck, two parts top round and one pound of sirloin. It comes out beautiful."

And it pays to listen to Dmytro when it comes to your burger this summer.

"You can go to stores and get something fatter, but it'll shrink to nothing," he said. "And how are you going to have friends that way? I could sell cheaper meat, too, but they mix in all kinds of other stuff in that. It comes from west, but I don't know when it was ground up."

Experts (and we are not only talking about ourselves here — we made calls on this) agree with Dmytro that lean meat makes no business being made into hamburger patties.

"A burger has to be juicy and fatty — it's what you crave," said Claire Stewart, a lecturer of culinary arts at City Tech in Downtown Brooklyn, which has a surprisingly good restaurant program.

That said, Stewart (who always mixes some Worcestershire sauce into her meat) said we are in a golden age for burgers — "provided we don't narrow the definition of what a burger is," she said, ticking off a list that included lamb burgers, chorizo burgers and even veggie burgers.

"If you're a vegetarian," she asked, "why should you be denied the nice feeling of taking something hot off the grill?"

Um, cause you're a freakin' vegetarian, she said.

"Uh, OK, I guess," Stewart de-

Chew on this

Only two Brooklyn hamburger joints — Dumont in Williamsburg and Mullane's Pub in Fort Greene — have been invited to the New York City Wine and Food Festival's "Burger Bash" this fall. As such, we have a convenient excuse to compare them in our first-ever Dumont vs. Mullane's smackdown.

DUMONT	NAME	MULLANE'S
One	Number of burger styles	10, including ones with horseradish sauce, Cajun spices, and red pepper puree.
\$12.50 (plus \$1.50 for cheese and \$2 for bacon)	Price	\$9.50-\$12 (complete)
Homemade pickles and pickled onions, lettuce, tomato, very good fries.	Comes with	Homemade cole slaw, pickles, lettuce, tomato, good fries.
Medium rare	Ordered	Medium rare
Very very rare	Served	Medium well
"Steer" right over to this "classic" burger — a mound of "top-quality" beef with a "delightfully salty" chaz, though "order it 'medium,' unless you want it still mooing."	Totally fabricated Zagat write-up	"Moo-ve over, Peter Luger; this eight-ounce thickburger has a 'nice crust' and 'inventive toppings' that go 'far beyond the usual patty and bun.' Could use 'a bit more salt,' though.

murred. "But there are some great ones out there."

Not on our watch.

New York Wine and Food Festival Burger Bash will be at the Tobacco Warehouse (inside Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, enter on Water Street at Dock Street in DUMBO, (866) 969-2933) on Oct. 9, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$200

and go on sale on Monday, June 15; Dumont (432 Union Ave., between Devos Street and Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 486-7717; Mullane's Pub (71 Lafayette Ave., at S. Elliott Place in Fort Greene, (718) 777-7606); Patty's Meat Market (7917 Seventh Ave., near Ft. Hamilton Parkway in Dyker Heights, (718) 836-4400).

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JUNE RECOMMENDATIONS

These are Darrin's Best Buys for June!

Darrin's June Discovery Wines!

Millaman Chardonnay

Delicious Chardonnay from one of Chile's oldest wineries... and one of its best! I discovered this winery when I was a judge in the Wines of Chile 2007 competition, and I've been a fan ever since (they took a gold medal). Rich, ripe, smooth and tasty with a "spot-on" balance.

\$9.95

Sor Rosado, by Bodega Sur

Dry Rosé has become the Official Wine of the Summer! After many years (well, centuries, actually) we've caught on to the delicious dry, crisp, lively style of Rosé wines that are enjoyed all over the globe once the weather turns warm. Chill a bottle and your lunch wins seem like a picnic on the grass! Wonderful with the lighter foods of summer! Nothing sweet here but the price!

\$9.95

Rioja Vega

Is there a better wine for grilled food than Rioja? Here is a new twist: an old famous Rioja winery making a wine that's new in style: not too high in alcohol, no heavy oak flavors, fresh fruit flavors. A modern wine from an old winery! This is a perfect summertime red, as well as a great compliment to almost anything that you cook over coals. It even taste great with a bit of chili on it!

\$9.95

Oak Lane Shiraz, by Beau Joubert Winery

No, not one of those sweet, jammy Shiraz wines from Australia... this is a dry, medium bodied Shiraz from South Africa! What you'll taste is a ripe, fresh, vibrant flavors of fruit that a New World wines gives, but balanced by a sense of "terroir," of the minerals from the soil of the vineyard. It's the best of both worlds (and I say "delicious"?) and it's an unbelievable price!

\$8.95

Borgo M Friulano

This used to be called Tocai Friulano, but now it's simply Tocai... and it's simply delicious! This wine comes from the northeast corner of Italy, where acres and acres of Tocai are grown on the sunny hillsides. The cool climate gives the wine a beautiful balance and makes it an ideal "food wine." There is an enticing bouquet of pears and wildflowers with bright, crisp citrus flavors.

\$14.95

Villa Nozzole Chianti Classico, by Tenuta Di Nozzole

An old favorite, made in a whole new way! Villa Nozzole has been one of my favorite Chianti producers for years and years. This, their 2007 vintage, is a remarkable wine in that it is made in what winemakers call the "international-style": fresher tasting, ready to drink now, without further cellaring. This is a delightful wine, beautifully balanced and filled with flavor, and certainly not your Grandfather's Chianti.

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189, www.bricktheater.com.

THEATER, "WILM 690 — PI-RATE RADIO": Part of the Antidepressant Festival.

\$15. 3 pm. Brick Theater, 575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189, www.bricktheater.com.

THEATER, "MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING": 4 pm.

See Friday, June 12.

THEATER, "HOW TO FIGHT DEPRESSION WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ITS SYMPTOMS?": Part of the Antidepressant Festival.

\$15. 5:30 pm. Brick Theater, 575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189, www.bricktheater.com.

MUSIC, "FAUST": Gounod's tragedy, with English superstars. \$20-\$15.

students and seniors, \$5 teens, children free. 7 pm. Regina Hall 1220 65th St. at 12th Avenue in Dyer Heights, (718) 233-3553, www.reginaopera.org.

THEATER, "LE MIRAGE": Part of the Antidepressant Festival. \$15. 7 pm. Brick Theater, 575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189, www.bricktheater.com.

BLACK BOX NEW PLAY FESTIVAL: Short plays by Edward Versell, Daniel Damiano, Michael Kevin Baldwin, Rich Essey and Allan B. Lefkowitz. \$15 (\$12 seniors and children). 8 pm. Gallery Players 199 146th St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101, galleryplayers.com.

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Piano duets by Bach, Schubert, Brahms and Dvorak. \$35.

\$20 students. 8 pm. Bargemusic 1 Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2063, www.bargemusic.org.

THEATER, "GIG IGO IN 40 SECONDS": See Friday, June 12.

THEATER, "YOUR LITHOPEDION": Part of the Antidepressant Festival. \$15. 9 pm. Brick Theater

575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189, www.bricktheater.com.

SALES AND MARKETS

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: Free. 9 am-5 pm. PS 321 schoolyard Seventh Avenue and First Street in Park Slope, www.parksidepeasmarket.com.

SEWALK SALE: With car wash. 10 am-noon. Free.

9 am-3 pm. St. Mary's Orthodox Church (Bridge Boulevard and 18th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-8008), www.stmarys.org.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS IN MCCABEN PARK: Free. 10 am-6 pm. McCann Park (Bedford Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg), www.artistsandfleas.com.

BROOKLYN FLEA: Free. 10 am-5 pm. Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School (557 Clermont Ave. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene), www.brownstoner.com/brooklynflea.

BROOKLYN FLEA MARKET: Free. 10 am-5 pm. 194 20th St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Greenwood Heights, (347) 596-9614, www.brooklynflea.com.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Free. 11 am-6 pm. (129 N. Sixth St. between Bedford Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg), www.artistsandfleas.com.

BROOKLYN INDIE MARKET: Free. 11 am-7 pm. Smith Street and Union Street in Carroll Gardens, www.brooklynindiemarket.com.

BOOK SALE: Free. Noon-5 pm. Lesbian Herstory Archives (684 14th St. between Eighth and Ninth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3953), www.lesbianherstoryarchives.org.

OTHER

EAT WAFFLES WITH MISS BROOKLYN: Fundraiser for the Miss Brooklyn Scholarship Program. \$5-\$8. 10 am-1 pm. Wafel and Dingus Truck (Seventh Avenue and Carroll Street in Park Slope, (313) 492-0946), www.brooklynqueens.org.

SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL: Arts and crafts, slam poetry, chess and checker competitions, music, food and more. Free. 10 am-2 pm. See 9 DAYS on page 11

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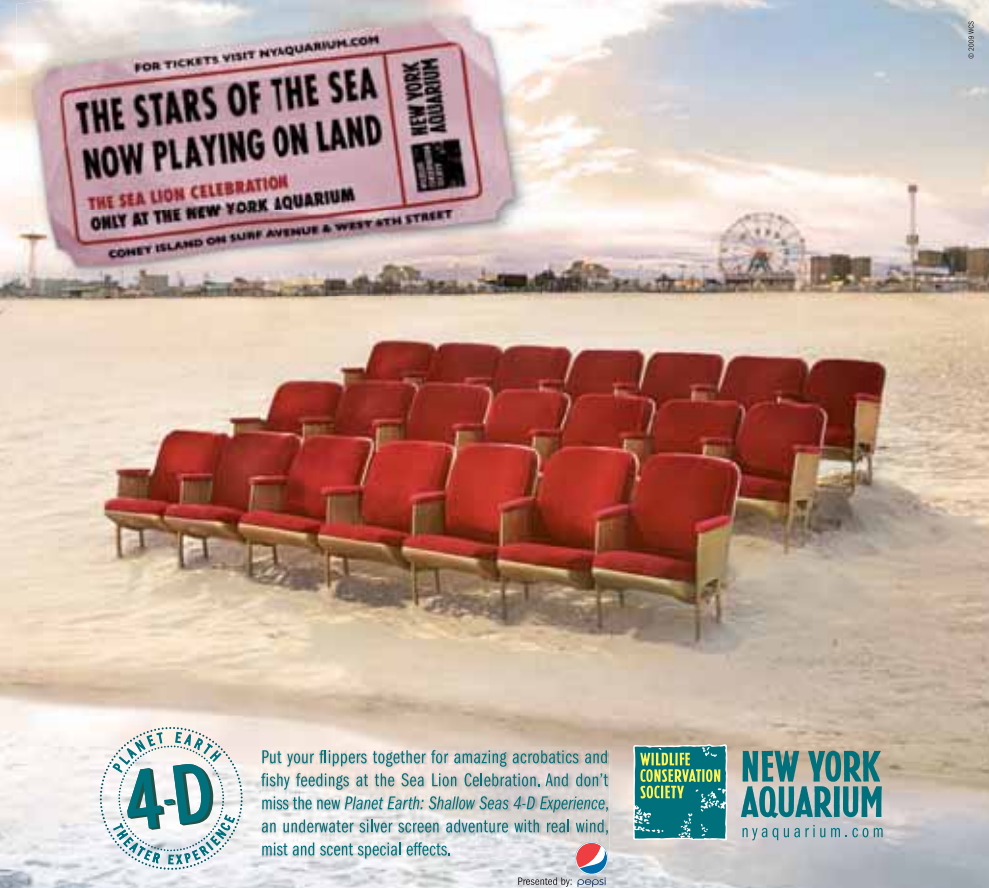


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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NEW YORK AQUARIUM
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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 10

PS 307 (209 York St. at Gold Street in DUMBO) (718) 834-4741, www.m313.org. **BROOKLYN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**, 1-11 pm. See Friday, June 12.

READING, JAKE WIZNER: Author of "Castration Celebration." Free, 2 pm. Barnes & Noble (267 Seventh Ave. at Fifth Street in Park Slope, (917) 559-4770).

WINDOWS BROOKLYN ART WALK: Meet artists in their respective stores. See Web site for guide. Free, 2-4 pm. (Court Street and Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, www.windowbrooklyn.com).

HIP-HOP BLOCK PARTY: Hosted by Brandon "Peace" Abington. Part of Hip Hop Generation Next. Free, 2-6 pm. Coffey Park (Visitation Place and Richards Street in Red Hook, www.dancinginredhook.org).

READING, MARGOT MIFLIN: Author of "The Blue Tattoo: A History of the Blue Tattoo." Free, 7 pm. BookCourt (163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677, www.bookcourt.org).

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Something fishy: The Mermaid Parade is back on Saturday, June 20 in Coney Island.

Meadows, Kevin Christopher Snipes and Victoria T. Joseph. \$15 (\$12 seniors and children), 8 pm. Gallery Play (199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth streets in Park Slope, (212) 353-2017, galleryplay.com).

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OUR OPINION

Gehry or not, build it

Continued from page 1

the economic development opportunity and heightened civic identity offered up by the arena and the Nets.

One need not be a hopeless romantic to appreciate the value of a professional sports team to a city like Brooklyn — which would be the fifth-largest in the country were it not shackled to the larger Gotham. Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx and even Nassau County have their own major league teams and the vibrancy that come with them — so it is appropriate that Brooklyn gets some of the action, too.

Die-hard opponents of the arena were quick to pile on this week when Ratner, buffeted like everyone else by the shattered economy, shelved Gehry's beautiful, though impractical, designs.

Ratner allies, most notably the New York Times, proved themselves to be fair-weather friends in this regard. Though the so-called Paper of Record had been a longtime cheerleader —

Even without Frank Gehry, the basketball arena would be a positive addition to Brooklyn.

and objectivity-averse supporter — of the entire Atlantic Yards project, the Times prominently displayed its architecture critic's denunciation of the new arena design. While no one is happy with the new utilitarian Ellerbe Becket blueprint, we refuse to give up on Brooklyn's arena.

Our past support for the arena was not solely contingent on the Gehry design, which was like fine lingerie. Replacing the lingerie with cheaper pajamas doesn't detract from what lies underneath.

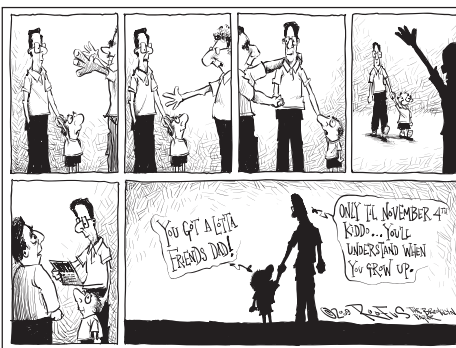
Unlike the Times editorial board, we live here — and we are still drawn to the prospect of the Nets coming to Brooklyn in an arena that will energize the area around it.

Are there caveats? Of course. Ratner and his MTA allies must not allow the land around the arena site to become large parking lots. The transit agency, which is negotiating with Ratner to give the developer a break on his development rights to the Van derbilt rail yards, must get something in return: a commitment to a sensible development that does not allow the arena to become a suburban-style black hole. Or, better still, the MTA should sub-divide Ratner's superblock and solicit new bids on each site.

And state officials must reject Ratner's current plan to build a basketball arena that can't also be configured for pro hockey. That's just foolishness.

But there are smaller issues. The debate over the larger Atlantic Yards project will continue for some time, but its future arguably rests as much on the city's ability to reignite its economic engine as it does on that debate. Meanwhile, game time for the arena is now.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

Right on BIDs

To the editor,

I was very glad to read The Paper's editorial on business improvement districts ("Paper: Stop the BID bid," June 4). The only reason BIDs exist is that city officials have miserably failed at the three basic functions of government: sanitation, security and infrastructure maintenance.

Under the guise of improving those three things, BIDs have been systematically privatizing the public spaces, streets, sidewalks and parks for decades. They are the biggest enemy of free speech there is. The mainstream media never writes about this in anything but the most glowing terms because papers like the New York Times are major players in the BID takeover.

Robert Lederman, Park Slope

Send a letter

By e-mail: newsroom@cnglocal.com
By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, One Metrotech Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201. All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter).

No foolin'

To the editor,

In spite of the gushy article and bubbling editorial ("The G train is now the Brooklyn local!" May 28), here's what's likely to happen after the expanded G service begins. The F train, in all likelihood, will be run as an express to and from Church Avenue to Bergen Street, much like it did in years past — skipping all local stops throughout South Slope and Windsor Terrace!

Look for long waits for a local G to Seventh Avenue from 15th Street or Fort Hamilton Parkway. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is not likely to increase the frequency of the G trains, having only last winter threatened to close the line entirely!

Walk to Seventh Avenue and catch the F there, you say? Probably faster anyway...

Bob Ipcar, South Slope

Walk the line

To the editor,

Reader Richard Hecht suggests that all cyclists be forced to register their bikes to reduce lawlessness, and as a way to raise revenues ("More reader complaints

about rogue cyclists," Letters, May 28).

I agree with him: we should also force all pedestrians to register (for a fee) because they are even more lawless than cars and bikes combined, and the revenues from forcing pedestrians to register can pay for all the sidewalk maintenance, which costs a lot more than bike lanes.

But? Hecht doesn't believe in fairness? I didn't think so. That's how you can tell someone is full of B.S.

We should just cut to the chase and create a "Do Unto Others" law. Unfairness is the biggest crime in America and NYC today.

Janice Amato, Manhattan

Slippery slope

To the editor,

Community Board 6 and the Board of Standard and Appeals should not allow the developer of the ultramodern Carroll Street apartment building to add three townhouses to his site ("A 'Ten' shant' CB6 blocks Enrique Norton's dream house in Slope," June 2) in order to "turn a reasonable profit" on the project.

If this happens, we can expect every other developer to modify proposals after they have been approved in order to increase the density (and therefore profitability) of their projects.

John Casson, Park Slope

WEB CHATTER

Goldstein is a huge target

Our Web readers are a passionate bunch. This week's example? Our story about Atlantic Yards opponent Daniel Goldstein's trip to Cleveland to personally confront the project's developers (which he could do because he's actually a shareholder in the company). Here's a fair synopsis of the debate online.

"If Daniel can buy 10,000,000 extra shares, he can fire Ratner and turn Metrotech into affordable housing. Oh, and he could sign LeBron James and then send him to the Knicks for a pair of socks."

Eazy D, Sheepshead Bay

"Must be nice to have money to buy stock, power, and get off to another state just to be a fly in the ointment and pass out wrong information. All to deprive unemployed people an opportunity to make an honest day's pay and deprive poor people a chance at decent housing. How glit! What chutzpah this guy has."

Judah Spechal, Bedford-Stuyvesant

"I bought five shares. Cost me \$20. At the meeting nobody contested what I had to say. Perhaps it wasn't wrong information, or they would have straightened me out on it. When I asked the board at Forest City Enterprises how they were going to build their project, or, as you write, create housing for 'poor people' and jobs for 'unemployed people,' they had no answer. But I've got an answer: you can't win by blighting the neighborhood and speculating on real estate."

Daniel Goldstein, Prospect Heights

"Mr. Goldstein has got what is called chutzpah, which in Yiddish means confidence and boldness. This character trait is something all New Yorkers should aspire to, especially if the middle class wants to keep the hands of greedy developers off their property and communities."

Charles Park Slope

"He's also got thin skin and rabbit ears — since he replied to commenter with lightning speed. Also a trust fund. What a pain."

Rocky, South Brooklyn

"Hey, Rocky, get a grip. Anyone can learn about comments on a thread within hours. If more people were informed earlier on, Daniel wouldn't be lifting such a heavy burden. As for all you 'what about the jobs?' proponents, take a look at what Ratner gets in return for each job. If I said I'd give you \$1 for every \$21 take from the city, would that be OK? Remember, they are using public money. Fight on Daniel. Fight on."

Freddy, Park Slope

"I'm sorry that Goldstein's apartment would be demolished, but he would be duly compensated. Downtown Brooklyn needs this arena project for it to prosper. Daniel, get a hobby or a job or both. Stop abusing the courts to put obstacles in the way of bettering our neighborhood. The vast majority are for construction and we will be more vocal about it."

Stewie Harry, Downtown Brooklyn

"We need this project like a hole in the head. Ratner needs it in an attempt to satisfy insatiable greed. Go take a stroll behind Lincoln Center one night and report back to us on the neighborhood feel?"

Ace, Bath Beach

"Hey, Goldstein, that ugly barn that Ratner is replacing Gehry's masterful design with will be your legacy for six years of useless legal obstructionism. Just think, 50 years from now it will be there for your kids and grandchildren to celebrate. The great citizens of our city will remember you every time they look at it. Who knew you were part of Forest City Ratner all along? You played a great Boy Wonder to Ratner's Batman. Great work! You are also my hero!"

Judah Spechal, Bedford-Stuyvesant

"Judah, if this schlock gets built, it will be the legacy of Ratner, Marty, Patalki, Spitzer, Paterson and Bloomberg. Take your red herrings elsewhere."

JuDUH, Bedford-Stuyvesant

"Let's move on already. Build the arena, throw down those derelict buildings and build up there. It's 50 years overdue."

Al Pankin, Downtown

"Daniel Goldstein is a hero for having the determination, guts and tenacity to keep on fighting unbelievable odds. Construction workers should point people down at public meetings! Affordable housing? That is one tired old argument and very very meaningless, when you analyze the facts of Ratner's proposals. How much will the basketball arena tickets cost? This is a public benefit? Forget it. Ratner is no angel and the public should not bear his costs for him to make even more profit."

Barbara, Clinton Hill

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BRONX — Monday, June 8, 2009 • 6:00pm — 9:00pm

(In partnership with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.)

Bronx Community Board 12

4101 White Plains Road (@ 229 Street) • Bronx, New York 10466

Directions: #2 Train to 225th or 233rd Street, Bx41 Bus to White Plains Road and East 228th Street

STATEN ISLAND — Wednesday, June 17, 2009 • 6:00pm — 9:00pm

(In partnership with Staten Island Borough President James P. Molinaro)

Brighton Heights Reformed Church

320 Saint Marks Pl., St. George, Staten Island

Directions: Staten Island Ferry to St. George Ferry Terminal, walk up hill to St. Marks Place or take 542 Bus to Central Avenue & Hyatt Street

QUEENS — Saturday, June 20, 2009 • 10:00am — 2:00pm

(In partnership with Queens Borough President Helen Marshall and The Greater Allen

AME Cathedral Financial Ministry)

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171-10 Linden Blvd., Jamaica, New York 11434

Directions: E,J,Z trains to Jamaica Center and transfer to Q4,Q5,Q84,Q85 Buses to Merrick Boulevard and Linden Boulevard

BROOKLYN — Thursday, June 25, 2009 • 6:00pm — 9:00pm

(In partnership with Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz)

Brooklyn Borough Hall

209 Joralemon Street, The Courtroom, 2nd Fl., Brooklyn

Directions: 2,3,4,5 trains to Borough Hall Station; A, C, F trains to Jay Street/Borough Hall Station

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KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

Teen Spirit is going to the prom!

Teen Spirit was dead set against going to his own senior prom. This Smartmon learned the day after he wrote a \$350 check to pay for prom, senior breakfast, yearbook and graduation.

"No way am I going to the senior prom," Teen Spirit told Smartmon. "It's ridiculous!"

"But I just sent in the check," Smartmon said. Teen Spirit seemed pretty unconcerned about his mother's huge output of cash in these dark, economic times.

"I hate the idea of prom," he told her.

That made sense. Smartmon couldn't really imagine Teen Spirit at a prom — even if it was a groovy prom like the kind they have at his progressive public school, which does just about everything in a non-traditional way.

"I'm sure it's not going to be a normal prom," she told Teen Spirit.



By Louise Crawford

But normal or not, he wasn't going and that was that. As you can guess, Teen Spirit is just not a prom sort of guy — not even in an ironic way.

So Smartmon just mentally tossed that prom money good-bye. She figured the senior committee probably needed the money anyway, and it was only part of it was for the yearbook.

Smartmon thought back to her own high school days. Unfortunately, there was a big hole in her memory where a prom should have been. She thought and she thought and she thought. She tried to summon up a memory of a fun festive party, a fluffy prom dress, and a fragrant corsage.

Nothing. Nada. Nicht.

That's because there was no prom. Graduating from high school in 1976, her classmates (herself included) didn't believe in such programmed events.

It was the 1970s. Smartmon and her female classmates met in a weekly Women's Group, where they discussed sexism, sexist high school boys and teachers. They even organized a full-day event for International Women's Day.

It's not like she didn't like parties. Smartmon and her friends went to plenty of wild parties in large pre-war apartments in buildings on Upper West and East Side, where they drank too much Bohemian beer and made out with boys on beds strewn with overcoats (in that order).

Smartmon even had a boyfriend who could have taken her to the prom. But they didn't believe in proms at her progressive, left-leaning private school. Proms were elitist, bourgeois and sexist. Right?

So on the night of her friend's daughter's prom, Smartmon found herself envying the kids who were doing the traditional prom thing. It all seemed so quaint and vintage. It even sounded like fun.

Suddenly, Smartmon understood why she had unthinkingly paid for Teen Spirit's prom without asking him. It's called magical thinking. She wanted him to go to the prom, so she wished him to go to the prom.

"Hey, did I tell you, I'm going to the prom!" he said nonchalantly.

"You are?"

"But I'm only staying one hour. One of my friends begged me to go," he said.

"What are you going to wear?"

"I'll wear dad's seersucker suit..."

"And grandpa's white shoes?"

"Yeah," he said.

Smartmon was thrilled. It was the first time they've been in agreement about anything in ages.

"Should I have it dry-cleaned?" she said.

"Whatever," Teen Spirit said by way of yes.

So Teen Spirit is going to the prom. Smartmon tried to be blasé, but she was happy that Teen Spirit was doing something traditional to mark the end of his high school career.

And in the process, he was making up for that thing he never got to do. Even if it was elitist, bourgeois and sexist. Right?

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PARENTS WIN...

Continued from page 1

Last month in what is now known as Washington Park is the only active sports grounds in Brooklyn that is reserving any prime time for non-team use, according to Parks Department officials at the meeting in the Old Stone House inside the park.

Parks Department officials were initially resistant to divvying up a greater allowance for casual use because there's a high demand from school, youth and adult sports leagues for playing time on a limited number of athletic fields.

"It's only a small percentage of our acreage that's devoted to organized sports," said David Spiegel, the long-time commissioner of Brooklyn's parks.

The talks got off to a contentious beginning with parents asserting their demand for a greater share of time on the field that until earlier this year, was a much-hated black lot.

The tension ebbed as it became apparent that the Parks Department would be flexible on the hours available for community use.

A number of volunteers from youth leagues also attended, hoping to preserve an adequate slice of the pie for themselves and issuing a warning to parents who expect harmony during the off-hours when uniformed squads don't have the right of way.

"It's the law of the jungle with well-permitted fields," said David Nisbett, who directs the local 78th Precinct Youth Sports Council, which hopes to use the field for baseball.

Nisbett and others said that parents with young children might be upset to have to contend with teenagers or adults dominating the field during the community access time.

It's going to get mobbed and, if you don't have a permit, there's nothing we can do about it," Spiegel said.

Such a problem raged for decades in Fort Greene Park where informal soccer games distressed parents to see balls whizzing near their tykes on the playground.

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FAMILY CALENDAR



Alice Shi will perform at an upcoming CIRCUSunday at Barge 77 in Red Hook.

FRI, JUNE 12

11:30 am: Storytime. \$2.50. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hics and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710]. themovie-spot.com.

1 pm: Sewing club. All ages and sewing levels. Free. Lefferts Historic House (Enter park at Flatbush Avenue and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park). www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

4:15 pm: Family movie night. Free. Movie Spot (see venue info above).

SAT, JUNE 13

10 am: Sports and fitness expo for children, including fencing, wrestling, track and field and step dance. Free. Boys & Girls High School (7700 Fulton St. at Schenck Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 346-5852). www.boysandgirlshighschool.org.

11:30 am: Father's Day Celebration. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 733-4400). www.brooklynkids.org.

Noon: Walrus birthday. Tassau turns 2. New York Aquarium (502 Surf Ave. between W. Eighth and W. Fifth streets in Coney Island, (718) 265-3474). www.nyaquarium.org.

Noon: Kinderdag. Children's Day festival includes puppet shows, crafts, Colonial games, food and more. Free. Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum (5816 Clarendon Rd. at Ralph Avenue in East Flatbush, (718) 629-5400). www.wyckoffmuseum.org.

12:30 pm: Puppet show, "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp" (58 57 children). Puppetworks (338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391). www.puppetworks.org.

1 pm: Nature Crafts. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400). www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

1:30 pm: Science fun. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center (see venue info above).

2-4 pm: Make a mosaic. Benck Obama. Free. MoCADA (80 Hanson St. in South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 230-0952). www.mocada.org.

2:30 pm and 5 pm: Family concert. Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" and more. \$15 (\$8 students and seniors). Irondale Center (85 St. Olaf St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233). www.irondale.org.

3 pm: Sing-a-long concert. Brooklyn Repertory Opera's series for children. \$10 (\$5 students and seniors). Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816). www.brooklynlyceum.com.

5:45-9 pm: Family disco party. Free. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hics and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710]. themovie-spot.com.

SUN, JUNE 14

11:30 am: Father's Day Celebration. See Saturday, June 13.

Noon: Walrus birthday. See Saturday, June 13.

12:30 and 2:30 pm: "Aladdin." See Saturday, June 13.

1 pm and 4 pm: CIRCUSunday. With juggling, clowning, acrobats and more. \$14 (\$10 children). To let your event, visit: **thebrooklynpaper.com/events/submit**

FRI, JUNE 12

11:30 am: Storytime. \$2.50. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hics and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710]. themovie-spot.com.

1 pm: Sewing club. See Saturday, June 13.

4:15 pm: Family movie night. Free. Movie Spot (see venue info above).

SAT, JUNE 13

Noon-4 pm: Hip-hop Family Day. Music, performances, demonstrations, and seminars. Free. Empire Fulton Ferry State Park (Plymouth Street and Main Street in DUMBO, (732) 259-9119). www.brooklynkids.org.

Noon-4 pm: Mermade of the Deep. New York Aquarium (502 Surf Ave. between W. Eighth and W. Fifth streets in Coney Island, (718) 265-3474). www.nyaquarium.org.

12:30 pm: "Aladdin." See Saturday, June 13.

1 pm and 3 pm: Teens perform. "Horton Hears Who." \$7.50 (museum admission). Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 733-4400). www.brooklynkids.org.

1:30 pm: Science fun. See Saturday, June 13.

3 pm: Roxane Butterfly and the New Top. Learn about bee dancing. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 733-4400). www.brooklynkids.org.

5 pm: Harry and the Potters. With the Remus Lupins and the Whomping Willows. \$10. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510). www.thebellhouse.com.

MON, JUNE 15

11:30 am: Storytime. \$2.50. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hics and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710]. themovie-spot.com.

4 pm: "Wallace and Gromit." Part of the Big Micees for Little Kids series. \$6.50. Cobble Hill Cinema (245 Cobble Hill, bignovelforlittles.blogspot.com).

TUES, JUNE 16

11 am: Sing Along with the Lyrics. \$2.50. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hics and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710]. themovie-spot.com.

WED, JUNE 17

1 pm: Storytime. \$2.50. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hics and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710]. themovie-spot.com.

THURS, JUNE 18

11 am: Circus Around with Nat. \$2.50. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hics and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710]. themovie-spot.com.

FRI, JUNE 19

11:30 am: Storytime. \$2.50. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hics and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710]. themovie-spot.com.

1 pm: Sewing club. See Friday, June 12.

4:15 pm: Family movie night. Free. Movie Spot (see venue info above).

SAT, JUNE 20

Noon-4 pm: Hip-hop Family Day. Music, performances, demonstrations, and seminars. Free. Empire Fulton Ferry State Park (Plymouth Street and Main Street in DUMBO, (732) 259-9119). www.brooklynkids.org.

Noon-4 pm: Mermade of the Deep. New York Aquarium (502 Surf Ave. between W. Eighth and W. Fifth streets in Coney Island, (718) 265-3474). www.nyaquarium.org.

12:30 pm: "Aladdin." See Saturday, June 13.

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5 pm: Harry and the Potters. With the Remus Lupins and the Whomping Willows. \$10. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510). www.thebellhouse.com.



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